GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:305
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
VISIT OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES TO INDIA
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;GORDHANBHAI JAVIA;NIVEDITA MANE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign dignitaries who visited India since December 2002, till date;

(b) the details of the issues on which deliberations were held with each of these dignitaries;

(c) the outcome of these discussions held;

(d) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

a) to e) The information is at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

Bangladesh

(i) Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Morshed Khan visited India from February 13-16, 2003 on invitation from EAM.During the visit the Bangladesh Foreign Minister met EAM for bilateral talks and delegation level discussions and also called on Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. Foreign Minister also visited Ajmer Sharif. Important bilateral issues were discussed.

Maldives

(i) Major General Abdul Sattar Anbaree, Minister of State for Defence and National Security visited India from 13-20 December 2002. He called on Raksha Mantri, Prime Minister and President and visited Armed Forces Medical College, Ordnance Factory at Medak and had an opportunity to See the full range of bulletproof vehicles manufactured by Mahindra & Mahindra.

Myanmar

(i) U Win Aung, Myanmar Minister of Foreign Affairs visited India from January 19-24, 2003.This was the first bilateral visit of a Myanmar Foreign Minister since 1987.Apart from meeting EAM for bilateral discussions and delegation level talks, the Myanmar Foreign Minister called on Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Minister of Disinvestment with additional charge of Department of Development of North Eastern Regions and met Home Secretary.The Myanmar Foreign Minister also met members of India's business community at a CII arranged working lunch.A bilateral Protocol on regular holding of Foreign Office Consultations was signed between the two Foreign Ministers.

Sri Lanka

(i) Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka and brother of President of Sri Lanka led a three − member delegation of Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) representing PCBK to India from December 2-4,2002 and called on PM, EAM, Principal Secretary to PM and FS. He carried a letter from the Sri Lankan President addressed to Prime Minister.

(ii) Mr. Tilak Janaka Marapane, Sri Lankan Minister for Railways,Defence, Highways and Civil Aviation visited India from 15-25 December, 2002 at the invitation of Minister of Railways. During the visit he also called on Minister of Railways and Raksha Mantri. Sri Lanka asked India's assistance for training of its engine drivers, supply of a metal crusher for Preparing ballast, clips for sleepers. India agreed to extend all assistance.

(iii) Mr. Milinda Moragoda, Minister for Economic Reform and Science & Technology, Sri Lanka on Minister of External Affairs on January 10, 2003. He met Principal Secretary to the PM, Minister of External Affairs and Foreign Secretary and briefed them on the Fourth round of peace talks held at Thailand.

(iv) Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse, Leader of Opposition, Sri Lanka visited India From February 3-6, 2003 and called on EAM, former Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil and Foreign Secretary.

(v) Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, M.P., former Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka and Advisor to PCBK visited India from January 10-11, 2003 on invitation from the Shastri Memorial Trust to deliver the 10th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture.He called on EAM and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. He also met Foreign Secretary.

BHUTAN

(a), (b) and (c):

(i) Her Majesty Ashi Kesang Choden Wangchuk, Queen Mother of Bhutan Visited India from December 11-26, 2002 on Government of India invitation.

(ii) Dasgo Ugyen Tshering, Foreign Secretary of Bhutan visited India from December 11-26, 2002 for discussions on Indian assistance to Bhutan's 9th Five Year Plan.

(iii) Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, Minister of Trade & Industry visited India from 16-17, 2003 for Tala and Kurichu Hydro-electric Project Authority Meetings.

(iv) Dasho Ugen Dorji, Speaker of National Assembly of Bhutan visited India January 20-26, 2003 to attend Golden Jubilee celebrations of Parliament.

(v) Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, Auditor General of Bhutan visited India fromFebruary 12-27, 2003 on the invitation from Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(d) No bilateral agreements were signed with Bhutan.

(e) N.A.

NEPAL

(a), (b) & (c) Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Taranath Ranabath, Speaker of the Pratinidhi Sabha (the Lower House) of Nepal and Hon'ble Mr. Radheshyam Adhikari, Member of the Rashtriya Sabha (the Upper House) of Nepal visited India from January 23 to 28, 2003 to participate in the Inter Parliamentary Conference to mark the golden Jubilee of the Indian Parliament on Government of India invitation.

(b) No bilateral agreements were signed with Nepal.

(vi) N.A.

Qatar

a) At the invitation of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Ram Naik, the Minister of Gnergy and Industry of the State of Qatar, H.E. Mr. Abdullah bin Hamid Al-Attiyah led a fourmember delegation to participate in the PETROTECH-2003 held from 9-12 January, 2003.

b) Discussions were held on energy and its related issues.

c) The visit was useful in enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

C & d) Nil

Kuwait

a) Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Communication Minister of the State of Kuwait visited India from 7-12 December, 2002. He was accompanied by a six-member delegation. The visit was at the invitation of the Communication Minister of India.

b) The visiting Minister had detailed discussion with Indian dignitaries on Indo-Kuwait cooperation particularly in technical fields.

c) The outcome of these discussions was very satisfactory enhancing Coopoeration between the two countries.

d&e) Nil

(a)-(e) President of Iran H.E. Syyed Mohammad Khatami visited India from 24 to 28 January 2003. During the visit, wide ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest were held. The New Delhi Declaration, signed by the Prime Minister and the Iranian President, puts forth the vision of strategic partnership between India and Iran for a more stable, secure and prosperous region and for enhanced regional and global cooperation. It touches all aspects of cooperation − bilateral economic cooperation, cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons, science and technology, information technology, education and training, reconstruction of Afghanistan, international terrorism, and other global issues.

In addition to the New Delhi Declaration, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Road Map to Strategic Cooperation was also signed which sets a five-year target oriented framework for milestones towards the strategic partnership. Six other documents, Agreement on Science and Technology cooperation, MoUs on cooperation in hydrocarbons sector, Vocational Training, and Urban Water Management; Cultural Exchange Programme (2003-2005) and Framework Agreement on operationalization of USD 200 million Indian line of credit to be implemented by Exim Bank through a group of Iranian banks were also signed.

(a) There were two official visits from Tanzania and Mauritius to India since December, 2002. Tanzanian President H.E. Mr. Benjamin William Mkapa visited India from 15-20 December, 2002 and Prime Minister of Mauritius H.E. Anerood Jugnauth visited India from January 5-11, 2003.

(b) During these visits, there were detailed discussions between the two sdides on the entire gamut of bilateral relations, and on regional and international issues of mutual concern such as terrorism, NAM, UN restructuring etc.The visits served to strengthen relations in the political, economic and other relevant fields.

(c) A major outcome of the Tanzanian President's visit was that Tanzania openly supported India's candidature for permanent membership of UNSC. On the J&K and cross-border terrorism issue, both the countries appreciated our viewpoint and took the stand that the issue of J&K should be resolved through bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan in the framework of Simla Agreement of 1972 and Lahore Declaration of 1999.

(d) & (e) An MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture & Allied Sectors and an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Health & Medicine were signed during the visit of the Tanzanian President. These agreements provide for cooperation in the field of agriculture, especially in the area of agricultural research and health including facilitating registration of Indian pharmaceutical products in Tanzania.

i) Mr. S.R. Nathan, President of Singapore − January 3-14, 2003
ii) Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta, Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste − January 23-27, 2003.
iii) Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand, February 13-17, 2003.
(b) Matters of bilateral, regional and international importance were discussed during the visits.
(c) The visits further strengthened the bilateral relations between India and the countries respectively.
(d) No, Sir.
(e) Does not arise.
Minister of Foreign Relations of Mexico H.E. Mr. Jorge Castaneda visited India from November 29 to December 3, 2002 and matters of mutual interest in bilateral, regional and international areas were discussed. The discussion led to a better understanding of each other's concerns.
Egypt
A 10-member Egyptian Parliamentary delegation headed by Dr. Ahmed Fathi Sorour, Speaker of the People's Assembly of Egypt visited India from 20-25 January, 2003 to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Parliament.Dr. Sorour, accompanied by a 3-member delegation, including Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee paid a courtesy call on Rashtrapatiji. The Egyptian Speaker was the only dignitary among the 70 Heads of delegations, which attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations, to have an exclusive audience with the Rashtrapatiji.
Sudan
A 23-member Sudanese Parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, Speaker of the National Assembly of Sudan visited India from
22-27 January, 2003 to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Parliament.Mr. Al-Tahir paid a courtesy call on the PM. The Sudanese Speaker was the only dignitary, among the 70 Heads of delegations, which attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations, to have an exclusive audience withs the PM.
Morocco
A 3-MEMBER Moroccan Parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. Abdelwahed Radi, President of the House of Representatives o Morocco visited India from 22-26 January, 2003 to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Parliament.
Parliamentary delegations
A 3-member Algerian delegation headed by Mr. Omar Mehdad, Vice-Chairman of the Upper House of Algeria, a 3-member Jordanian delegation headed by Mr. Riad Sghaka's Senator and Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee of Jordan and Dr. Assad Abdul Rehman, Member of the Palestine National Council, visited India from 20-27 January, 2003 to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Parliament.
i) Major Genral L.M. Faiziev, Deputy Minister of Defence of Tajikistan (30th Nov-7 Dec., 2002)
ii) H.H. Absattar Haji Derbaissali, Chairman of Religious Administration of Kazakhstan (13-20 December, 2002)
iii) H.E. Mr. Bulent Arnic, Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (15-20 Dec., 2002)
iv) H.E. S.S. Gulyamov, Minister of High and Secondary Specialised Education, Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan (7-10 Jan 2003)
v) Parliamentary delegations from the following Central Asian countries Visited India from 20-26 January, 2003 in connection with the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Indian Parliament:
a) Kazakhstan: Two Kazakh delegations were led by Mr. Omirbek Baigeldi, Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Upper House) and Mr. Muhambet Kopey, Deputy Chairman of the Majilis of Kazakh Parliament respectively.
b) Kyrgyzstan: Two Kyrgyz delegations were led by Mr. Erkebaev A., Speaker of Legislative Assembly of Kyrgyz Parliament and Mr. Altay Borubaev, Speaker of Assembly of People's Representatives of Kyrgyz Parliament respectively.
c) Tajikistan: The Tajik delegation was led by Mr. Mahmadsaid Ubaidulloyev, Chairman of the Majlisi Milli of Majlisi Oli (Upper House)
d) Turkey: The Turkish delegation was led by Mr. Ismail Alptekin, Deputy Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly
e) Uzbekistan: The Uzbek delegation was led by Mr. Erkin Vahidov, Chairman on the Committee of International Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relations.
vi) H.E. Mr. A.H. Kamilov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan (3-4 Febreuary, 2003).
Para (b) (c) During the above visits, discussions were held on issues of mutual interest.
Para (d) Yes Sir
Para (e) Agreement on setting up of a Joint Working Group on combating International Terrorism was signed between India and Uzbekistan During Uzbek Foreign Minister's visit in Febreuary, 2003.

Annex 1
Column Legends:
• A1: Name & designation of the foreign dignitaries who visited India since December 2002 (ministers / speakers and above)
• A2: Start Date of the visit (dd-mmm-yy format)
• A3: End date of the visit (dd-mmm-yy format)
• B & C: The details of the issues on which deliberations were held with each of these dignitaries; The outcome of those discussions held
• D & E : Bilateral agreements signed, if any, along with brief details

A1 A2 A3 B & C D & E
Russian President Mr. Vladimir V Putin 3-Dec-02 5-Dec-02 The visit reinforced the traditional ties of warmth and friendship between the two countries and enabled exchange views on important issues of bilateral and international concern.

1. Delhi Declaration on Further Consolidation of Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation signed by Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir V. Putin: This document contains the positions of the two sides on issues of bilateral and multilateral interest. During the visit of Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, to India in October 2000, the two countries had signed a Declaration on Strategic Partnership. In the present document, the two sides have further enunciated their cooperation on political issues of mutual interest and concern. Russia has reaffirmed its support to India as a strong and appropriate candidate for permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council. The two sides have also outlined their common position on terrorism, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Middle

East, etc. This document will widen and strengthen the framework of the existing cooperation between India and the Russian Federation in different areas and will contribute to consolidation of their strategic partnership.
2. Joint Declaration on Strengthening and Enhancing Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation signed by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Vladimir V. Putin: The document sets out the ideas of the two countries on further strengthening and enhancing economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries. The two sides have deiced to undertake several measures in this direction, including: Creation of a favourable environment for bilateral investment and its promotion and protection; Enabling business organizations to get the full support of financial institutions in their trade and investment exchanges. This would include expediting the opening of the branches of Indian commercial banks in Russia and vice-versa. Cooperation in this sector would include human resource development; Strengthening transportation links and infrastructure in different modes, within and between the two countries, in order to support increased flow of traffic in goods and services, as well as tourism and travel. Special importance will be attached to registering forward movement on bilateral and trilateral consultations to operationalize the North-South International Transport Corridor.Attention will also be paid to maintain effective communication links, especially in electronic and telecommunication fields; Streamlining customs administration to facilitate trade growth; Harmonizing national standardization and certification regulations relevant to trade and investment. This would encompass exchanges of empowered delegations representing the regulatory bodies of the two countries. Such cooperation would also focus on removing technical barriers to trade between the two countries; Putting in place an efficient visa regime for business exchanges; Encouraging active interaction between the insurance sectors of the two countries; Exploring the possibilities of establishing a joint venture fund to help start up new enterprises; Consistent with bilateral agreements, encouraging economic interaction at the regional level.
3. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism by Minister of External Affairs Shri Jaswant Sinha and Mr. Igor Ivanov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation: Under this agreement, the two countries will set up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism. It will be an inter-agency group on both sides and will be coordinated by their respective Foreign Offices.
4. Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Protection and Use of Intellectual Property Rights to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Scientific and Technological Cooperation dated 30 June 1994 signed by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister of Human Resource Development and S&T and Mr. Ilya Klebanov, Minister of Industry and S&T : Under the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 1994, the two countries had to decide on the issue of intellectual property rights on the results of joint work in S&T field. The objective of this Protocol is therefore to deal with the issues of effective and proper acquisition, distribution, protection, sharing or transferring of intellectual property rights, created in the process of joint activity in the framework of the 1994 S&T agreement.
5. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Telecommunications between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Russian Federation by Shri Pramod Mahajan, Minister of Communications and IT and Mr. L. D. Reiman, Minister of Communications and Informatization Under this MoU, the Ministries of Communications of the two countries will exchange information on telecom policy and regulatory issues, search for technical solution to achieve effectiveness in telecom sector, develop and apply advanced technologies in the field of telecom, and exchange experts and sharing training facilities in this sector.
6. Protocol between the Government of the State of Karnataka of the Republic of India and the Samara Region Administration of the Russian Federation on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation signed by Shri S. M. Krishna, Chief Minister of Karnataka and Mr. K. A. Titov, Governor of the Samara Region: This Protocol has been signed under the framework of the Government on Cooperation between the States and Union Territories of India and the Regions of Russia which was signed in October 2000. Karnataka and Samara Region will, in accordance with the laws of the two countries, will promote cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields, as well as in education, sports and tourism sectors.
Romanian Foreign Minister Mr.Mircea Dan Geoana 14-Jan-03 17-Jan-03 Issue of mutual interest especially trade and economic cooperation were discussed. None.
Polish Speaker of Senate Prof. Longin Pastusiak Parliament. 21-Jan-03 26-Jan-03 Participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Parliament None.
Latvian Saeima (Parliament)'s Chairperson (Speaker) Mrs. Ingrida Udre 22-Jan-03 26-Jan-03 Participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Parliament None.
Czech Minister of Defence Mr. Jaroslav Tvrdik 3-Feb-03 3-Feb-03 Mr Tvrdik visited leading Czech participation in the Aero India 2003 exhibition at Bangalore None.
Czech Minster of Industry and Trade Mr. Jiri Rusnok 3-Feb-03 7-Feb-03 Mr Rusnok visited leading Czech delegation of Government and Industry representatives at the International Engineering Trade Fair None.
Polish Prime Minister Mr. Leszek Miller 15-Feb-03 18-Feb-03

(The visit is likely to have taken place by 19 Feb 2003 when the Parliamentary Question comes for answer) Agreements likely to be signed are on:
1. Cooperation in combating organized crime and international terrorism
2. Extradition Treaty
3. Defence Cooperation

Annex 2 A: Name of the politician / minister
B: designation
C: country visited
D: start date of the visit
E: end date of the visit

A B C D E
Shri Bachi Singh Rawat Minister of State for Science & Technology Belarus 18-Feb-02 21-Feb-02
Shri Omar Abdullah Minister of State for External Affairs Czech Republic 19-Feb-02 20-Feb-02

Shri Omar Abdullah Minister of State for External Affairs Poland 21-Feb-02 24-Feb-02
Mr Bachi Singh Rawat Minister of State for Science & Technology Bulgaria 7-Apr-02 10-Apr-02
Shri George Fernandes Raksha Mantri Russia 10-Apr-02 13-Apr-02
Shri Ved Prakash Goyal Minister of Surface Transport Russia 21-May-02 22-May-02
Shri Manohar Joshi Lok Sabha Speaker Poland 22-May-02 26-May-02
Shri Murasoli Maran Commerce and Industry Minister Romania 24-Jun-02 26-Jun-02
Shri Harin Pathak Minister of State for Defence Production and Supplies Poland 5-Jul-02 10-Jul-02
Shri Manohar Joshi Lok Sabha Speaker Croatia 8-Jul-02 12-Jul-02.
Shri Ajit Singh Agriculture Minister Bulgaria 10-Jul-02 13-Jul-02
Shri Vinod Khanna Minister of State for Tourism and Culture Yugoslavia 19-Sep-02 21-Sep-02
Smt. Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of Delhi Russian Federation 22-Sep-02. 25-Sep-02
Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Czech Republic 22-Sep-02 27-Sep-02
Shri M G Ramachandran MOS (Finance) Slovenia 14-Jan-03 17-Jan-03
Shri George Fernandes Raksha Mantri Russian Federation 14-Jan-03 19-Jan-03

Lok Sabha Provisional Admitted Starred Question No. 358 raised by Smt. Nivedita Mane, Shri C.N.Singh and Shri G.J. Javiy regarding " Visit of Foreign Dignitaries to India `

Country Foreign dignitaries to visit since Dec 02 Details of issues on which deliberations held & outcome of discussions Bilateral Agreements signed & details thereof
France Mr. Pierre Lellouche, Member of the French Parliament and President of the Indo-French Friendship Group in the Frenc National Assembly visited India from 21st − 23rd January 2003 for Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Parliament.

The French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin visit to India from 6-8 February 2003. He was accompanied by four Cabinet Ministers and a Minister of State − Mr Francis Mer, Minister of Economy, Finance & Industry, Mr. Francois Loos, Minister of Trade, Mr Gilles de Robien, Minister for Equipment, Transport, Housing, Tourism; Mme Claudie Haignere, Minister for Science & Technology and Mr Renault Muselier, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and a large business delegation and media. He visited J&K and met with state government officials, including a meeting with CM of J&K. In New Delhi he visited the Indian Parliament and interacted with members of the Standing Committee on External Relations. He also called on NSA during his visit.

Prime Minister Raffarin first arrived in Bangalore on 6th February 2003 where he met with CM of Karnataka and visited the 'AeroIndia' show in Yalahanka. In New Delhi he called on Rashtrapatiji, Vice President and PM. The accompanying Ministers also had useful interactions with their Indian counterpart ministers. The business delegation extensively interacted with Indian businessmen both in Bangalore and New Delhi through FICCI and CII. The foundation stone of Alliance FranÃ§oise was laid during the visit. At Bangalore four agreements worth in all US$300 million were signed between HAL and SNECMA, the French aircraft engine manufacturer for joint production, manufacture and maintenance of engines and key components. President of the Rhone Alpes region Mrs. Anne-Marie Comparini and Chief Minister of Karnataka signed a Letter of Intent of cooperation between Rhone Alpes region and the State of Karnataka.

Germany
Mr. Josef Hattig, Minister of Economics and Ports of German state of Bremen [5 Jan 03]
Dr. Bernard Vogel, Minister-President of the German State of Thuringia [20-24 Jan 03]
Mr. Norbert Lammert, Vice President of the Bundestag [22-26 Jan]
To participate in the CII partnership Summit in Hyderabad
Dr. Vogel met EAM and Minister of HRD
To participate in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Parliament

Italy Mr. Giuliano Urbani, Minister of Culture Heritage and Activities [Jan 24-30, 2003]
Mr. Antonio Martino, Defence Minister [Feb 2-5, 2003]
Senator Fiorello Provera, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate and Mr. Gustavo Selva, President of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies [Jan 22-26, 2003] Expansion of bilateral cooperation in the field of culture with particular reference to art restoration and cinema
Discussions were held on bilateral defence cooperation between two countries, threat perceptions and recent political issues
To attend the International Parliamentary Conference The Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2003-2005 signed
Agreement on Defence Cooperation was signed
UK Ms. Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development [3-5 Dec 02]
Ms. Patricia Hewitt, Secretary of State for Trade & Industry [5-8 Jan 03]
A delegation of MPs from Labour Friends of India group lead by Mr. Stephen Pound [5-14 Jan 03]
Mr. Earl Attlee, Conservative MP from House of Lords and Piara Singh Khabra, a Labour MP [22-26 Jan 03] Had meetings with EAM, Finance Minister and CM, West Bengal.
Had meetings with DPM, Finance Minister, Minister of Civil Aviation, Minister of Petroleum & natural gas
Met DPM, EAM, Leader of Opposition and Chairman NHRC
To attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Parliament

Portugal Dr. Joao Bosco Mota Amaral, President of Portuguese Parliament [21-26 Jan 03] To participate in the International Parliamentary Conference. Discussions between the President of Portuguese Parliament and the Speaker enhanced the existing goodwill

Switzerland Mr. Charles Kleiber, Swiss Secretary of State for Science & Research [13-19 Dec 02]
Mr. Blaise Godet, Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland [20-21 Jan 03] Held discussions with Minister of

Science & Technology
For the second round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Switzerland at Secretary level. In-depth review of bilateral relations and exchange of perceptions on issues of regional and global concern

Austria Nil
Ireland 6-member parliamentary delegation led by Dr. Rory O' Hanlon, Speaker of House of Representatives [22-26 Jan 03] To participate in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Parliament

Norway Mr. Jorgen Kosmo, President of Norwegian Storting [22-26 Jan 03] To participate in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Parliament

Sweden Mrs. Kerstin Heinemann, Second Dy. Speaker of Swedish Parliament [22-26 Jan] To participate in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Parliament
Ministry of External Affairs
(East Asia Division)

VISIT OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES
Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 305
Japan
(a)The Foreign dignitaries who visited India since December 2002 till date; Japanese Foreign Minister Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi on 7-8 January
(b) the details of the issues on which the deliberations were held with each of these dignitaries Bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest including the implementation of the Joint Declaration issued during the visit of Prime Minister to Tokyo in December 2001.
(c) the outcome of these discussions held; Both sides agreed to further concretize the India-Japan Global Partnership for the 21st Century during 2003.
(d) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; and No
(e) if so, the details thereof?
No

Inputs on China, ROK, DPRK and Mongolia are nil.

Sibi George)
DS (JK)
14.02.2003

Annexure-I
a) The Foreign dignitaries who visited India since December, 2002

a) the foreign dignitaries visited India b) the details of the issues on which deliberations held with each dignitaries c) the outcome of the those discussions held d) whether any bilateral agreement were signed with them; and e) if so, the details thereof
USA

December5-6 ,2002 Mr. Stephen Hadley, US Dy. National Security Advisor To discuss the bilateral relationship in order to build long-term strategic collaboration and to cooperate on global and regional issues The bilateral relations have further strethened and two nations `cooperation on vital strategic issues have further intensified NIL N.A
December 9-12, 2002 Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command High level exchanges in India·U.S.relations and further intensifying and expanding defence cooperation. Bilateral cooperation improved and both sides satisfied their continued contribution to the war on terrorism. NIL N.A.
December 12-14, 2002 Mr. Sam Brownback, Senator Discussed bilateral issues

Agreed to further intensify bilateral relation in the area of economic, trade and also bilateral cooperation in energy and water sector. Both sides agreed to have better understanding on global issues including terrorism. N.IL N.A.
January 6-7, 2003 Dr. Richard Haass, Director (Policy Planning), U.S. Department of State Discussed bilateral relations Both sides agreed to have more understanding on bilateral issues, and global issues on terrorism and security. Nil N.A.

Canada
January 6-14, 2003 Mr. David Kilgour, MP Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada.

Bilateral relations and to deliver address at the CII Partnership Summit in Hyderabad. Both sides have agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations in all areas NIL N.A.
January 5-11, 2003 Mr. Gulzar Cheema, Member of the Legislative Assembly and Minister of State for Mental Health of the Government of the Province of British Colombia, Canada To Participate in Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Celebrations. Also discussed prospects of long-term India-Canada collaboration in the health sector, including possibilities of R&D Collaboration in the area of biotechnology. Promoted bilateral cooperation in the health sector. NIL N.A.

February 6-14, 2003 Mr. James Flaherty, Minister of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation of the Province of Ontario, Canada Areas of common interest between Ontario, Canada, and India, including bilateral trade and investment. Promoted better understanding between the two sides. NIL N.A,

February 10-12, 2003 Mr. Len Edwards, Deputy Minister of International Trade of Canada Bilateral matters relating to Trade, investment, security and political issues. Strengthened bilateral cooperation and promoted better understanding between the two sides. NIL N.A.